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SOURCE Friss Ujsag.

HUNGARY TACKLES MEDICINE SCARCITY;
STATE TAKES OVER ALL PHARMACIES

LAY MEDICINE SHORTAGE TO POOR PLANNING --- Budapest Friss Ujsag, 7 Jul 50

Complaints are heard in many parts of the country concerning a shortage of medicine. Some drugs are not available in rural pharmacies, while they are abundant in the cities, and an item which may be purchased at one Budapest pharmacy may be out of stock at others.

One of the reasons is that medical state enterprises order supplies from the factories not every 3 months as called for by the Five-Year Plan, but irregularly, sometimes changing their orders from week to week. This has caused complications in the production schedules of the Richter factory, the Chinoin factory, the United Hygienic Goods Works, and the Egger factory, since production has had to be shifted to put out items not scheduled by their production plan.

The Medicine Industry Center, which is the connecting link between the factories and the Therapeutical State Enterprise, reports that many rural pharmacies lack digitalis, hydrocodein, polybromides, medical plasters, bandages, ultraseptyl urea, calcium injections for skin diseases, and even such simple medicines as kalmopirin. While these items cannot be bought, they line the shelves at the factories where they were produced. The Debrecen Tuberculosis Institute, for instance, has not been able to get thiomycid, which is very effective in tuberculosis of the pharynx.

The Therapeutical State Enterprise has asked that the factories produce at least the usual amounts of the ordinary drugs to provide a 30-day supply, and has expressed the hope that shortages will soon be overcome.

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NATIONALIZE PHARMACIES -- Budapest Friss Ujsag, 29 Jul 50

The Presidential Council has made public a decree nationalizing pharmacies in order to put the medicines which had previously been controlled by private interests at the service of public health.

The decree does not alter the status of employees in former privately-owned pharmacies. An administrator will be appointed by the Minister of Public Health, and the state will take possession and indemnify former owners.

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